



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

CLAYTON MITCHELL,

Defendant.

CR No. 2:24-cr-00641-SPG

I N F O R M A T I O N

[18 U.S.C. §§ 932(b)(1), (b)(2):
Conspiracy to Straw Purchase
Firearms]

The United States Attorney charges:

[18 U.S.C. §§ 932(b)(1), (b)(2)]

A. INTRODUCTORY ALLEGATIONS

At times relevant to this Indictment:

1. Defendant CLAYTON MITCHELL was a resident of both Renton, Washington, and Bakersfield, California.
2. Co-Conspirator 1 was a resident of Los Angeles, California, within the Central District of California.
3. Co-Conspirator 1 previously has been convicted of at least one crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year.
4. Neither defendant CLAYTON MITCHELL nor Co-Conspirator 1 was licensed to engage in the business of dealing in firearms.

1 B. OBJECTS OF THE CONSPIRACY

2 Beginning on a date unknown and continuing until on or about
3 June 15, 2023, in Los Angeles County, within the Central District of
4 California, and elsewhere, defendant CLAYTON MITCHELL conspired with
5 Co-Conspirator 1 for defendant MITCHELL to knowingly purchase three
6 firearms, namely, a Taurus, model G2C, .40 caliber pistol, bearing
7 serial number AEC154349, a Taurus, model G2C, .40 caliber pistol,
8 bearing serial number AEC154470, and a Taurus, model G2C, .40 caliber
9 pistol, bearing serial number AEC154319, each in and affecting
10 interstate and foreign commerce, for, on behalf of, and at the
11 request and demand of Co-Conspirator 1, knowing and having reasonable
12 cause to believe that (1) Co-Conspirator 1 previously had been
13 convicted of at least one crime punishable by imprisonment for a term
14 exceeding one year, in violation of Title 18, United States Code,
15 Section 932(b)(1); and (2) Co-Conspirator 1 intended to sell and
16 otherwise dispose of the firearm in furtherance of a felony, namely,
17 engaging in the business of dealing firearms without a license in
18 violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(a)(1)(A), in
19 violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 932(b)(2).

20 C. MANNER AND MEANS OF THE CONSPIRACY

21 The objects of the conspiracy were to be accomplished, in
22 substance, as follows:

23 1. Co-Conspirator 1 would sell firearms to customers in Los
24 Angeles, California.

25 2. Defendant MITCHELL would purchase firearms for, on behalf
26 of, and at the request and demand of Co-Conspirator 1 from a Federal
27 Firearms Licensee ("FFL") located in Renton, Washington.

1 3. Defendant MITCHELL would represent to the FFL that he was
2 the actual buyer of the firearms when in reality defendant MITCHELL
3 was purchasing the firearms for, on behalf of, and at the request and
4 demand of Co-Conspirator 1.

5 4. Defendant MITCHELL would transport the firearms Renton,
6 Washington to Los Angeles, California, where Co-Conspirator 1
7 resided, and deliver them to Co-Conspirator 1.

8 5. Co-Conspirator 1 would sell the firearms received from
9 defendant MITCHELL to firearms customers in Los Angeles, California.

10 D. OVERT ACTS

11 On or about the following dates, in furtherance of the
12 conspiracy, and to accomplish its objects, defendant MITCHELL and Co-
13 Conspirator 1 committed various overt acts within the Central
14 District of California, and elsewhere, including, but not limited to,
15 the following:

16 Overt Act No. 1: On March 22, 2023, via text message,
17 defendant MITCHELL sent Co-Conspirator 1 a link to Pantel Tactical,
18 an FFL located in Renton, Washington.

19 Overt Act No. 2: On March 27, 2023, via text message,
20 defendant MITCHELL sent Co-Conspirator 1 a photograph depicting a
21 rotary tool that could be used to scratch serial numbers off
22 firearms.

23 Overt Act No. 3: On May 2, 2023, via text message, defendant
24 MITCHELL sent Co-Conspirator 1 a photograph of defendant MITCHELL's
25 Cash App account.

26 Overt Act No. 4: On May 5, 2023, via text message using coded
27 language, Co-Conspirator 1 told a third-party that defendant MITCHELL
28 was selling firearms for the "lowest prices."

1 Overt Act No. 5: On or before May 8, 2023, Co-Conspirator 1,
2 while living in Los Angeles, California, asked defendant MITCHELL to
3 buy firearms on Co-Conspirator 1's behalf.

4 Overt Act No. 6: On May 8, 2023, defendant MITCHELL placed
5 two online orders with Pantel Tactical for ten firearms, including a
6 Taurus, model G2C, .40 caliber pistol, bearing serial number
7 AEC154349, a Taurus, model G2C, .40 caliber pistol, bearing serial
8 number AEC154470, and a Taurus, model G2C, .40 caliber pistol,
9 bearing serial number AEC154319.

10 Overt Act No. 7: On May 17, 2023, while at Pantel Tactical
11 picking up his order, defendant MITCHELL completed a Bureau of
12 Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives ("ATF") Form 4473, in
13 which he answered "yes" next to the question, "are you the actual
14 transferee/buyer of the firearm(s) listed on this form" and certified
15 that his answers on the form were "true, correct, and complete."

16 Overt Act No. 8: On May 27, 2023, defendant MITCHELL drove
17 from Renton, Washington to Co-Conspirator 1's residence in Los
18 Angeles, California with three firearms that defendant MITCHELL had
19 purchased from Pantel Tactical.

20 Overt Act No. 9: On May 27, 2023, defendant MITCHELL
21 delivered three firearms that he had purchased from Pantel Tactical
22 to Co-Conspirator 1 in Los Angeles, California.

23 Overt Act No. 10: On May 28, 2023, Co-Conspirator 1 texted a
24 photograph of the three Taurus firearms defendant MITCHELL had
25 delivered to Co-Conspirator 1, and for which the serial numbers had
26 been scratched off, to an individual who Co-Conspirator 1 believed
27 was a firearms customer but who was, in fact, a confidential
28 informant working for ATF (the "CI").

1 Overt Act No. 11: On May 31, 2023, via text message using
2 coded language, Co-Conspirator 1 told the CI that Co-Conspirator 1
3 only had three Taurus firearms left but that he would be getting a
4 box of ten firearms.

5 Overt Act No. 12: On May 31, 2023, Co-Conspirator 1 met with
6 the CI in a Ralph's parking lot in Los Angeles, California and sold
7 the CI three Taurus firearms with scratched-off serial numbers, which
8 were the three Taurus firearms that defendant MITCHELL had purchased
9 from Pantel Tactical for, on behalf of, and at the request and demand
10 of Co-Conspirator 1.

11 Overt Act No. 13: On or before June 8, 2023, defendant
12 MITCHELL placed two online orders to Pantel Tactical for ten
13 firearms.

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1 Overt Act No. 14: On June 15, 2023, defendant MITCHELL picked
2 up the ten firearms from Pantel Tactical.

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